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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

DECLASSIFIED
E. O. 11652, SEC. 3(E), 5(D), 5(E) AND 11
BY [illegible] NARS, DATE 10-23-78

August 2, 1961

Walt - U. S. Archivist NLK-77-313

Yesterday or the day before in a discussion of SEA, you raised a question as to the actual statements in the SNIE with respect to Communist reaction at Geneva to implementation of Plan 5 or an operation in South Laos.

Attached is the estimate, opened to the relevant paragraph.

Sent to [illegible] 8/3/61

Though, as I noted in an earlier memo, the estimate does not specifically cover the reaction at Geneva to an attack upon the DRV, the marked material on p. 12 has some bearing and raises some doubt as to whether their reaction would take the form of more reasonableness at the conference table. Admittedly the threat of an attack could produce a different result.

I am not using this device to reopen the argument I have been making -- I will develop my ideas more fully in a separate memo as you requested. I am just responding here to your interest in the SNIE.

As I have said before, I hope that the procedure for the development of contingency plans for SEA will include plans for the preparation of a new SNIE on Communist and other reactions to the implementation of those plans. It seems to me obvious that the President should have an intelligence judgment on this important subject.

BV

Robert H. Johnson [redacted]